

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims as amended are respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish from the process of Brumlik.

(1) The claims now require that the cuts are coextensive, in Brumlik the cuts are staggered.

(2) Claims 20 and 53 require the formation of discrete cut portions. In Brumlik the cuts are staggered and the backing is an integral structure.

(3) In claim 20, the second set of strands formed by the discrete cut portions are parallel. In Brumlik the cut portions end up both parallel and at right angles to each other.

(4) In claim 20 the integral strand structures are oriented. The Figure 11 embodiment of Brumlik are milled ribs and the backing is not cut to form a net. This is an alternative way to form hook elements in Brumlik and an alternative to the Figures 2, 5 and 6a embodiments according to the teaching of Brumlik.

(5) In claim 53 the discrete cut portion are separable. The cut portion in Brumlik are always integral.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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